

## Message Text

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44

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 ACDA-19 AID-20 EB-11 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AF-10 SAM-01 NEA-14

OMB-01 ABF-01 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /179 W

----- 001868

R 130815Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1220

INFO USUN NEW YORK 109

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 3753

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN

SUBJECT: KEY ISSUES AT 29TH UNGA

REF: A. STATE 184584; B. SINGAPORE 3653; C. SINGAPORE 3661;

D. STATE 199150

1. SUMMARY. IN GENERAL GOS WILL ENDEAVOR TO TAKE POSITIONS ON MOST UNGA ISSUES WHICH ARE HELPFUL TO ITS FRIENDS, INCLUDING THE U.S. HOWEVER, GOS WILL OF COURSE HAVE TO GIVE PRIMARY CONSIDERATION TO HARMONIZING ITS POSITIONS WITH OTHER A EAN GOVERNMENTS. MOREOVER, AS NON-ALIGNED COUNTRY IT WILL WISH TO AVOID OPPOSING DIRECTLY VIEWS OF GROUP OF 17. END SUMMARY.

2. ON AUGUST 27 EMBASSY PROVIDED MFA OFFICIALS MEMO OUTLINING US VIEWS ON KEY ISSUES AT 29TH UNGA. REFS B AND C HAVE ALREADY REPORTED SINGAPORE'S VIEWS ON CAMBODIAN AND KOREAN ISSUES.

3. ON SEPTEMBER 12 DCM MET WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY IN CHARGE OF UN AFFAIRS IN MFA, LEE CHIONG GIAM, TO DISCUSS GOS POSITIONS AND/OR ATTITUDE TOWARD OTHER UNGA ISSUES.

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LEE PREFACED HIS COMMENTS BY NOTING THAT GOS HAD NOT YET

FIRMED UP ITS POSITION ON ANY OF THESE ISSUES AND THAT IN VIEW OF COMPETENCE AND EXPERIENCE OF AMBASSADOR KOH IN NEW YORK, GOS WOULD PROBABLY FOLLOW HIS RECOMMENDATIONS ON MANY OF THESE QUESTIONS. IN ADDITION, HE POINTED OUT THERE WERE A NUMBER OF ISSUES ON WHICH ASEAN COUNTRIES WOULD CONSULT TOGETHER IN NEW YORK IN ORDER TO WORK OUT A COMMON POSITION. HOWEVER, HE VOLUNTEERED FOLLOWING INFORMATION RE "GENERAL ATTITUDE" OF GOS ON ISSUES LISTED BELOW:

A. SOUTH AFRICA: THE ASEAN GOVERNMENTS WOULD PROBABLY GO ALONG WITH THE AFRICANS. HOWEVER, IF IT COMES TO THE POINT OF EXCLUDING SOUTH AFRICA FROM THE ASSEMBLY, GOS WOULD PROBABLY ABSTAIN.

B. PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES, RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA. ON THESE EMOTIONAL QUESTIONS SINGAPORE AND OTHER ASEAN GOVERNMENTS WILL WISH TO SUPPORT A CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH AND WOULD CERTAINLY NOT WISH TO SUPPORT AT THIS TIME ANY RESOLUTIONS WHICH MIGHT COMPLICATE THE PROBLEMS OF THE PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES. HOWEVER, ON ALL AFRICAN ISSUES GOS WILL WISH TO AVOID THE APPEARANCE OF DIRECTLY OPPOSING A LARGE MAJORITY OF AFRICAN COUNTRIES AND THEREFORE MIGHT HAVE TO GO ALONG WITH CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS THAT ARE NOT TOO OBJECTIONABLE AND ABSTAIN ON OTHERS.

C. HUMAN RIGHTS. GOS WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY SUPPORT DECLARATION ELIMINATING ALL FORMS OF RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE AND WOULD PROBABLY SUPPORT MOST OTHER RESOLUTIONS ENDORSING OR PROMOTING VARIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS.

D. MIDDLE EAST/UNWRA, ETC. GOS DOES NOT BELIEVE ARABS WILL BE TOO ACTIVE IN UNGA THIS YEAR; SINGAPORE WILL SUPPORT A CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH WHICH WILL PROMOTE RATHER THAN HINDER NEGOTIATIONS. GOS PREFERS NOT TO OPPOSE ARAB GOVERNMENTS DIRECTLY.

COMMENT: SINCE GOS HAS SIGNIFICANTLY SHIFTED ITS POLICY DURING THE PAST YEAR TO ONE OF GREATER SUPPORT FOR ARABS ON ME ISSUES, WE SHOULD NOT COUNT ON SINGAPORE TO SUPPORT ANY RESOLUTIONS.  
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TION UNLESS IT ALSO HAS THE SUPPORT OF AT LEAST SOME MODERATE OIL PRODUCING ARAB GOVERNMENTS. LEE SAID HE SIMPLY COULD NOT PREDICT WHAT GOS WOULD DO ABOUT AN UNWRA CONTRIBUTION OR UNEF/UNDOF FINANCING.

E. DISARMAMENT. GOS AND ASEAN GOVERNMENTS WILL PROBABLY GO ALONG WITH IRANIAN PROPOSALS FOR MENFZ AND CONTINUE TO SUPPORT IOPZ.

COMMENT: GOS ALMOST CERTAINLY HAS RESERVATIONS ABOUT WISDOM AND PRACTICALITY OF IOPZ BUT WILL NOT WISH TO BE ISOLATED FROM ITS ASEAN COLLEAGUES ON THIS ISSUE.

F. PROGRAM OF ACTION, CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS, AND STEAMROLLER TACTICS. LEE STRESSED SINGAPORE IS ANXIOUS NOT TO TAKE ANY ACTION WHICH WOULD HURT ITS PROVEN FRIENDS -- ESPECIALLY US, UK, AND AUSTRALIA. THEREFORE, GOS WOULD TRY TO BE HELPFUL. HOWEVER, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR GOS AS NON-ALIGNED COUNTRY TO STAND OUT AGAINST OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF GROUP OF 77. THEREFORE ON SOME OF THESE VOTES GOS MIGHT HAVE TO ABSTAIN. ON MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS GOS HAS TAKEN FAIRLY STRONG PUBLIC POSITION SUPPORTING USEFULNESS OF MNC'S TO THE LDC'S.

G. OTHER ISSUES. ON OTHER ISSUES SET FORTH REF A LEE WAS EITHER INADEQUATELY BRIEFED OR TOTALLY UNCERTAIN WHAT POSITION GOS WOULD TAKE. AGAIN HE INDICATED THAT ON MANY OF THESE QUESTIONS, GOS WOULD FOLLOW RECOMMENDATIONS OF ITS DELEGATION IN NEW YORK.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** kelleyw0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, PORG, SN, XA, UN, UNGA  
**To:** STATE  
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